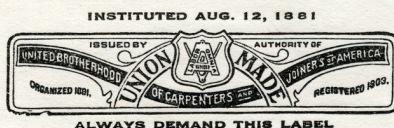


LOCAL UNION No. 1538

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America



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MIAMI, ARIZONA, July 30, 1936

Governor B. B. Moeur
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Governor:

I am writing to you as a representative of Carpenters' Union 1538 and am going to ask a favor of you. You have given me such hearty support in the past that I feel sure you will do so in this matter and I have great confidence in your ability to accomplish what I am going to ask. It is this:

The W. P. A. of this district is paying the men a minimum wage of \$44.00 a month and are working them a maximum of eighty-eight hours a month and yet they are working the W. P. A. women in the sewing rooms one hundred twenty-two hours a month for \$44.00.

We feel that the women should only have to work eighty-eight hours a month for their \$44.00 the same as the men.

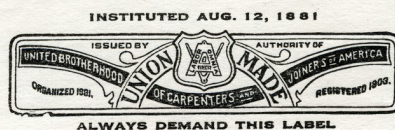
If there should be any shortening of the hours worked we feel the women should receive the benefit of it, even before the men do, because those women, almost as a whole, have housework to do, meals to get and clothes to wash and iron for themselves, their children and oftentimes sick or disabled brothers, sisters or other members of their household, who are unable to care for themselves.

It is an injustice to ask those women to work the hours they have to; thirty-four hours more a month than the men. After all, this work is for charity and to keep those women and their families from starving and we do not feel that they should be penalized just because they happen to be women. They should be entitled to time off even more than the men because they have their homes and children to care for.

We can seem to reach no agreement here or with the Phoenix W.P.A. office but I do sincerely believe that pressure brought upon them by you would bear fruit.

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MIAMI, ARIZONA, July 30, 1936

B.B.M #2

This office here is also doing something which Franklin D. Roosevelt and his administration pledged themselves to not allow and that is: to place men in private employment from the W. P. A. rolls at a reduced scale of wages under what the private concern was customarily paying. This office is now breaking that pledge by sending men to work for the Southern Pacific Railway Co. for \$44.00 a month. The men must furnish their own beds, bedding and food and be away from home which entails a double expense. From what I can find out if they do not go to work for the Southern Pacific they are dropped from the relief rolls.

This is an unjust practice and if allowed to continue it can mean only one thing: the collapse of all wage standards and a low standard of living for us all; not only those on W. P. A. but for each and every one of us and I trust that won't come to pass.

Governor Moeur, I am asking for your help because I believe you are for decency and justice as much as I am and I sincerely ask your cooperation and I wish now to thank you for what you have done to help us in the past and for what I am certain you will do for us in the future.

Most sincerely yours,

Earl L. Shirley
Earl L. Shirley
Sec'y Local 1538

